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## Public Utilities Commission

### Minutes of Open Meeting Held on September 29, 2020

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

In attendance: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, Todd Bianco, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro. Remotely: Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony and Patricia Lucarelli.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 4991 – Pascoag Utility District** – This docket relates to the Pascoag Utility District’s 2020 Demand Side Management (DSM) program approved by the PUC. The Pascoag Utility District submitted request to reallocate DSM funds on July 1, 2020. After review of the record, Commissioner Anthony moved approve Pascoag Utility’s request to increase the rebate levels for energy audits funding by the \$65,000 of RGGI funds from the Office of Energy Resources and Pascoag Utility shall not reallocate funding from the Community Events program and Energy Efficiency Management Continuing Education program. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5043 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25 submitted pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-24-2, The PUC considered the Conservation Law Foundation’s (CLF) motion to intervene. National Grid did not object to the motion. The Division field an objection to CLF’s motion. After discussion, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to grant CLF’s motion to intervene. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4915 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s Fiscal Year 2020 Electric Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) Plan approved by the PUC in this docket. The PUC reviewed the record regarding the Company’s August 3, 2020 proposed FY 2020 Electric ISR Reconciliation Filing and associated proposed CapEx Reconciling Factors and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Reconciling Factor for effect for October 1, 2020. After deliberation, the following motions were made:
  - a.) Chairman Gerwatowski moved to disallow the revenue requirement associated with \$1,641,674 of inventory in the Transformers & Related Equipment budget category. The Company was directed to make a compliance filing, with appropriate schedules, showing how the revenue requirement was removed from

the calculation of the cost that builds the rate that is going into effect. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- b.) Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve, subject to the removal of the revenue requirement associated with the prior motion, the PAF as proposed, subject to further review relating to issues associated with repairs to streetlights. The PUC left open the issue of repairs to streetlights and is not making any decisions as to the recovery or appropriateness of those costs. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- V. **Docket No. 4935 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s proposed Standard Offer Service rates submitted pursuant to the Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan approved by the PUC in this docket. The PUC reviewed the record regarding National Grid’s July 17, 2020 filing for approval to implement rate changes to the Standard Offer Service (SOS) Rate for the Residential Group and Commercial Group for the period October 2020 through March 2021, and SOS Rate for the Industrial Group for the period October 2020 through December 2020.

After deliberation, Chairman Gerwatowski moved that the Commission 1) find that the new proposed SOS rates are consistent with the previously approved procurement plan and law, 2) the rate request meets the requirements for approval, and 3) approve the Standard Offer Service rates as proposed. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- VI. **Docket No. 5039 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s Renewable Energy Growth (RE Growth) Program reconciliation filing of actual RE Growth revenue and costs for the period April 2020 thru March 2020. The PUC reviewed the record regarding the Company’s June 30, 2020 filing for approval of proposed RE Growth Factors and RE Growth Reconciliation Factors for effect October 1, 2020.

After deliberation, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the proposed 2020 RE Growth Factors as modified by: 1) removing \$162,267 of the costs included in the June 30, 2020 filing that are already being recovered in base rates, 2) removing \$7,086 plus interest for Community Net Metering OPEX that was inadvertently added to Shared Solar OPEX and included for recovery through the RE Growth Factor Filing; and 3) removing \$2,144 to calculate a more precise allowance for the Billing Implementation Support Contractor. Approval is subject to further review of the recovery of costs associated with the billing system modifications. The Commission clarified that it was not making any findings associated with right to recover costs associated with billing adjustments. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. **Docket No. 5054 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** - This docket relates to National Grid's electric annual reconciliation of actual pension and post-retirement benefits other than pensions expenses. The Company submitted its 2020 electric Pension Adjustment Factor on August 3, 2020. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Company's proposed Pension Adjustment Credit factor as filed effective October 1, 2020. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VIII. **Renewable Energy Resource Eligibility Applications** – The PUC reviewed and ruled on the applications submitted below:

**Docket No. 5056 – Inman Solar, Inc.'s** application for eligibility of the Church Street Solar Project, a .996 MW AC solar facility located in Richmond, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the PUC Consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 5050 – GD Hopkinton Main I, LLC's** application for eligibility of the GD Hopkinton Main I, LLC (Array #3) generation unit, a 4.125 MW AC solar facility located in Hopkinton, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the PUC Consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 5049 – GD Hopkinton Main I, LLC's** application for eligibility of the GD Hopkinton Main I, LLC (Array #2) generation unit, a 3.785 MW AC solar facility located in Hopkinton, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the PUC Consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 5048 – GD Hopkinton Main I, LLC's** application for eligibility of the GD Hopkinton Main I, LLC (Array #1) generation unit, a 2.625 MW AC solar facility located in Hopkinton, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the PUC Consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 5044 – Blackstone Hydro Associates'** application for eligibility of the Central Falls Hydroelectric Project repowered generation unit, a 0.74 MW small hydro facility located in Central Falls, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the PUC Consultant's recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**Docket No. 5045 – Trawl Works, LLC's** application for eligibility of the

TrawlWorks DG Solar generation unit. Discussion of this docket was postponed pending further review.

- IX. Minutes of Open Meetings** - Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Minutes of the Open Meetings held on September 1, 2020 and September 9, 2020. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
  
- X. There being no further business to consider, Chairman Gerwatowski adjourned the Open Meeting at 2:10 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>